

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings, including Figures 2, 4, and 5 replace the previously submitted sheets of drawings including Figures 2, 4, and 5. More specifically, Applicants have amended Figures 2, 4, and 5. Each replacement sheet has been clearly labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets of drawings including Figures 2, 4, and 5

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 6-16 are pending in the application. Claims 3-5 have been cancelled. Claim 15 has been added. Claims 1 and 9-13 have been amended. Claims 1, 15, and 16 are in independent form.

Specification

The specification has been amended to clarify terminology set forth in the application as filed. Applicants attest that no new matter has been added thereto.

Drawings

Applicants have attached 2 replacement sheets of drawings, including Figures 2, 4, and 5, hereto directly following these Remarks. Each replacement sheet has been labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header as per 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d).

In amended Figure 2, reference character "32" has been amended to "80" to identify the electric motor 80 as set forth in the specification.

In amended Figure 4, reference character "32" has been added to identify the rigid shaft 32 as set forth in the specification.

In amended Figure 5, reference character "32" has been added to identify the rigid shaft 32 as set forth in the specification.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,808,233 to Mallard ("the '233 reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have cancelled claims 3 and 4.

The Examiner states that “[c]laims 5-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application to include all of the limitations of claim 1, allowable claim 5, and intervening claims 3 and 4. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable.

Claim 14 depends from amended claim 1 and, as such, is construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claim 14 is now allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the '233 reference be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '233 reference. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As set forth above, Applicants have amended claim 1 of the above-captioned application to include all of the limitations of claim 1, allowable claim 5, and intervening claims 3 and 4. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable.

Claim 2 depends from amended claim 1 and, as such, is construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claim 2 is now allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '233 reference be withdrawn.

New independent claim 16 claims a track assembly (20) including a lower track (22) adapted to be secured to a floor of a vehicle; an upper track (24) adapted to be secured to a seat

assembly (10), the upper track (24) slidably coupled with the lower track (22); a rigid shaft (32) having a helical thread (38) formed thereon, the rigid shaft (32) rotatably supported by the upper track (24); at least one nut (40) engaged with the helical thread (38) of the rigid shaft (32), the at least one nut (40) having a threaded bore (41) and **raised bumps (66) disposed on opposing lateral sides (64) of the exterior of the at least one nut (40)**; and a cage (42) secured to the lower track (22), the cage (42) having at least one compartment (58) for supporting the at least one nut (40) therein, the cage (42) allowing relative rotational movement of the rigid shaft (32) relative to the at least one nut (40) for displacing the upper track (24) relative to the lower track (22), the at least one compartment (58) interacting with the raised bumps (66) of the at least one nut (40) thereby allowing a predetermined amount of movement of the at least one nut (40) within the at least one compartment (58) for preventing binding between the rigid shaft (32) and the at least one nut (40) due to loading of the upper track (24) relative to the lower track (22).

The '233 reference does not disclose a nut (40) having a threaded bore (41) and **raised bumps (66) disposed on opposing lateral sides (64) of the exterior of the nut (40)**. The raised bumps (66) allow angular movement of the nut (40) relative to the cage (42) and the rigid shaft (32) about an axis generally normal to the longitudinal axis of the rigid shaft (32). In contrast, the '233 reference discloses a nut 19 having a cylindrical body including a rib 19c that is substantially rectangular in shape, and that forms a tab over the entire axial length of the nut 19. A cage 22 is shaped to co-operate with the rib 19c so as to prevent the nut 19 from rotating. Thus, it is clear that the '233 reference does not disclose a nut having a threaded bore and **raised bumps disposed on opposing lateral sides of the exterior of the nut**.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 15 is allowed.

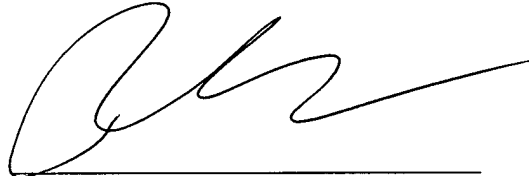
The Examiner states that "[c]laims 5-13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." In response, Applicants have amended

claim 1 of the above-captioned application to include all of the limitations of claim 1, allowable claim 5, and intervening claims 3 and 4. Thus, claim 1 is now allowable.

Claims 6-13 depend from amended claim 1 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claims to which they refer, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Thus, claims 6-13 are now allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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